

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Art Unit:
Akhiro KONDO et al.)
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 (Not Yet Assigned))
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For: METHOD FOR DETECTING...) Docket No.: KONDO 7

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination upon the merits, kindly amend as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following claims:

--10. (NEW) A method for detecting an endocrine disruptor, characterized in which the method comprises measuring the expression of the gene detected by the method according to claim 2.

11. (NEW) The method according to claim 10, wherein the endocrine disruptor is selected from ones classified into:

- (1) dioxins;
- (2) organochlorine compounds;
- (3) phenols;
- (4) phthalate esters;
- (5) aromatic hydrocarbons;

- (6) pesticides;
- (7) organotin compounds;
- (8) estrogens; or
- (9) mirex, toxaphene, aldicarb or kepone.

12. (NEW) The DNA array according to claim 8, wherein the gene or the DNA fragment derived from the gene is immobilized onto a slide glass.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 presently appear in this case. The above amendments to the claims are being made in order to add new claims and to restore at least partly the varying scope of claims, which was eliminated by the elimination of multiple dependencies in the claims.

Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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DESCRIPTION

METHOD FOR DETECTING GENE AFFECTED BY ENDOCRINE DISRUPTOR

5 Technical Field

The present invention relates to methods for detecting an endocrine disruptor which influences homeostasis of a living body, and a gene influenced by said substance.

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Background Art

Endocrine disruptors (often referred to as environmental hormones) collectively refer to chemical substances released in environment for which hormone-like activities or anti-hormone activities have been found. Altered reproductive potential (in particular, conversion of male into female), decreased reproductive potential, decreased hatchability, decreased survival rate of offspring, abnormal reproductive behavior and the like have been reported to be resulted from the influences of endocrine disruptors on the ecosystem of wild animals. Decreased number of sperms, endometriosis, infertility, ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, prostatic cancer and the like have been suspected to be resulted from the influences of endocrine disruptors on human health, although they have

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